

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~ A computer readable medium storing instructions for performing an inventory management method that calculates a supplement amount of inventory at a specific day, wherein a computer comprises the method comprises:

a step for calculating a first sales plan amount from a standard day, prior to said specific day, to said specific day based on sales performance data that stores the sales performance, and sales plan data that stores the sales plan;

a step for predicting a first inventory amount at said specific day based on said first sales plan amount, a second inventory amount at said standard day, and warehousing amount from said standard day to said specific day;

a step for predicting a second sales plan amount of the period from said specific day through a number of following days required to deliver a merchandise, based on said first sales plan amount;

a step for calculating a sales fluctuation range amount by multiplying said second sales plan amount by a predetermined fluctuation range ratio, wherein the fluctuation range ratio is a pre-calculated value representing fluctuation of a past performance amount relative to a corresponding expected amount;

a step for calculating a lower limit inventory amount of said specific day as a sum of based on said second sales plan amount and a standard value of ordinary inventory, wherein the standard value of ordinary inventory is based on said sales fluctuation range amount; and

a step for calculating a supplement amount ~~based on~~ as a difference between the lower limit inventory amount of said specific day and said first inventory amount and said lower limit inventory amount of said specific day.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~inventory management method according to claim 1~~ computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein said step for calculating the first sales plan amount comprises:

a step for calculating a sales performance ratio of each operating day based on said sales performance data;

a step for calculating an expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day, based on said sales performance ratio of each operating day; and

a step for calculating a sales plan amount until said specific day based on said expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~inventory management method according to claim 1~~ computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein said warehousing amount is calculated based on said supplement amount of said standard day to the day before the specific day.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~inventory management method according to claim 1~~ computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein said specific day is a day after the soonest day possible to supplement the inventory, when there is a new order.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~inventory management method according to claim 1~~ computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein said ~~computer method~~ further comprises a step for respectively calculating a retrospective day that goes back a period, which is required to deliver the merchandise from the factory, before a delivery day of each of one or more blanket orders, and said step for calculating said lower limit inventory amount includes calculating with said sales fluctuation range and said second sales plan amount the lower limit inventory amount at said specific day, based on each order amount and said retrospective day of said one or more blanket orders.

6. (Currently Amended) An inventory management apparatus, ~~which calculates a~~  
configured to calculate a supplement amount of inventory at a specific day, ~~that comprises the~~  
apparatus comprising:

a storing unit that stores sales performance data[[,]] ~~which stores sales performance data,~~  
and [[sale]] sales plan data, ~~which stores sales plan;~~ and

a controller ~~which~~ configured to :

~~calculates~~ calculate a first sales plan amount from a standard day, prior to said specific  
day, to said specific day based on said sales performance data and said sales plan data;

~~predicts~~ predict a first inventory amount at said specific day based on said sales first  
plan amount, a second inventory amount at said standard day, and warehousing amount from said  
standard day to said specific day;

~~predicts~~ predict a second sales plan amount of the period from said specific day through  
a number of following days required to deliver a merchandise, based on said first sales plan amount;

~~calculates~~ calculate a sales fluctuation range amount by multiplying said second sales  
plan amount by a predetermined fluctuation range ratio, wherein the fluctuation range ratio is a pre-  
calculated value representing fluctuation of a past performance amount relative to a corresponding  
expected amount;

~~calculates~~ calculate a lower limit inventory amount at said specific day ~~based on as a~~  
sum of said second sales plan amount and a standard value of ordinary inventory, wherein the  
standard value of ordinary inventory is based on said sales fluctuation range amount; and

~~calculates a~~ calculate a supplement amount ~~based on as~~ a difference between the lower  
limit inventory amount of said specific day and said first inventory amount ~~and said lower limit~~  
~~inventory amount of said specific day.~~

7. (Previously Presented) The inventory management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said controller calculates a sales performance ratio of each operating day based on said sales performance data, calculates an expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day, based on said sales performance ratio of each operating day, and calculates said first sales plan amount until said specific day based on said expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day.

8. (Original) The inventory management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said warehousing amount is calculated based on said supplement amount of said standard day to the day before the specific day.

9. (Original) The inventory management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said specific day is a day after the soonest day possible to supplement the inventory, when there is a new order.

10. (Previously Presented) The inventory management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said controller calculates a retrospective day that goes back a period, which is required to deliver the merchandise from the factory, before a delivery day of each of one or more blanket ~~order~~ orders, and calculates with said sales fluctuation range and said second sales plan amount the lower limit inventory amount at said specific day, based on each order amount and said retrospective day of said one or more blanket orders.

11. (Currently amended) A recording medium, which records an inventory management program for calculating a supplement amount of inventory at a specific day, wherein said inventory management program functions a computer as:

a first sales plan amount calculating means for calculating a first sales plan amount from a standard day, prior to said specific day, to said specific day based on sales performance data that stores the sales performance, and sales plan data that stores the sales plan;

a first inventory amount predicting means for predicting a first inventory amount at said specific day based on said first sales plan amount, a second inventory amount at said standard day, and warehousing amount from said standard day to said specific day;

a second sales plan amount predicting means for predicting a second sales plan amount of the period from said specific day through a number of following days required to deliver a merchandise, based on said first sales plan amount;

a sales fluctuation range calculating means for calculating a sales fluctuation range amount by multiplying said second sales plan amount by a predetermined fluctuation range ratio, wherein the fluctuation range ratio is a pre-calculated value representing fluctuation of a past performance amount relative to a corresponding expected amount;

a lower limit inventory amount calculating means for calculating a lower limit inventory amount at said specific day ~~based on~~ as a sum of said second sales plan amount and a standard value of ordinary inventory, wherein the standard value of ordinary inventory is based on said sales fluctuation range amount; and

a supplement amount calculating means for calculating a supplement amount as a difference between the lower limit inventory amount of said specific day and ~~based on~~ said first inventory amount ~~and said lower limit inventory amount of said specific day.~~

12. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 11, which functions said first sales plan amount calculating means as:

a sales performance ratio calculating means for calculating a sales performance ratio of each operating day based on said sales performance data;

an expected sales performance ratio calculating means for calculating an expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day, based on said sales performance ratio of each operating day; and

a sales plan amount calculating means for calculating said first sales plan amount until said specific day based on said expected sales performance ratio of each operating day after the standard day.

13. (Original) The recoding medium according to claim 11, wherein said warehousing amount is calculated based on said supplement amount of said standard day to the day before the specific day.

14. (Original) The recording medium according to claim 11, wherein said specific day is a day after the soonest day possible to supplement the inventory, when there is a new order.

15. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 11, which further functions said computer as retrospective day calculating means for respectively calculating a retrospective day that goes back a period, which is required to deliver the merchandise from the factory, before a delivery day of each of one or more blanket orders, and functions said lower limit inventory amount means as means for calculating with said sales fluctuation range and said second sales plan amount, the lower limit inventory amount of said specific day, based on each order amount and said retrospective day of said one or more blanket orders.